

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An adhesive tape, ~~particularly for the bonding, to a metallic retaining bar or metal rail during the printing process, of printing blankets, characterized in that the adhesive tape (20) comprises at least one layer (25) comprising a release liner and, having two sides and a pressure-sensitive hotmelt adhesive layer applied to one side of the latter, a pressure-sensitive hotmelt adhesive layer (30), release liner, the two sides of the release liner layer (25) exhibiting the same or different release.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The adhesive tape of claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the pressure-sensitive hotmelt adhesive (30) is a copolyamide.

3. (Currently Amended) The adhesive tape of ~~one of claims~~claim 1-and 2, characterized ~~in that~~wherein the pressure-sensitive hotmelt adhesive layer (30) has a thickness of at least 100 μm , preferably between about 120 and about 250 μm , more preferably between about 150 and about 200 μm .

4. (Currently Amended) The adhesive tape of ~~one of claims~~claim 2-and 3, characterized ~~in that~~wherein the copolyamide has a softening point of the copolyamide of the pressure-sensitive hotmelt adhesive layer (30) is between about 90°C and about 160°C, in particular between about 100°C and about 160°C.

5. (Currently Amended) The adhesive tape ~~one of claims~~claim 2-to 4, characterized ~~in that~~wherein the copolyamide is free from tack.

6. (Currently Amended) The adhesive tape of ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 to 5, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the release liner is temperature-stable up to at least 200°C, preferably up to at least 220°C.

7. (Currently Amended) The adhesive tape of ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 to 6, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the release liner has a weight of between about 80 g/m² and about 200 g/m².

8. (Currently Amended) The adhesive tape of ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 to 7, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the release liner layer (25, 25') has a thickness of between about 70 µm and about 150 µm.

9. (Currently Amended) The adhesive tape of ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 to 8, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the release liner comprises a backing material (40) furnished on both sides with a release liner layer.

10. (Currently Amended) The adhesive tape of claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the backing material of the release liner layer is based on silicone or fluorinated compounds, and in particular is a polydimethylsiloxane.

11. (Currently Amended) The adhesive tape of ~~one of claims~~claim 9 and 10, ~~characterized in that~~wherein one side of the backing material (40) has a release liner layer (25, 25') with higher release than ~~the a~~ release liner layer (25, 25') on the other side.

12. (Currently Amended) The adhesive tape of claim 11, characterized in thatwherein the two release liner layers (25, 25') with different release have a different material application rate.

13. (Currently Amended) The adhesive tape of ~~one of claims~~claim 11 and 12, characterized in thatwherein the two release liner layers with different release have different chemical compositions.

14. (Currently Amended) The adhesive tape of ~~one of claims~~claim 9 to 13, characterized in thatwherein the release liner layer joined to the pressure-sensitive hotmelt adhesive layer (30) has been pretreated, ~~in particular corona-pretreated~~.

15. (Currently Amended) The adhesive tape of ~~one of claims~~claim 9 to 14, characterized in thatwherein the release liner layer (25, 25') joined to the pressure-sensitive hotmelt adhesive layer (30) has a release force (i.e., release) of between about 0.5 and 3 cN/cm at room temperature and a release force of about 1 to 10 cN/cm following lamination at about 220°C.

16. (Currently Amended) The adhesive tape of ~~one of claims~~claim 9 to 15, characterized in thatwherein the backing material (40) is a release paper (40').

17. (Currently Amended) The adhesive tape of ~~one of claims~~claim 9 to 15, characterized in thatwherein the backing material (40) is a polymer backing (40"), composed in particular of ~~polyimide, polyethylene naphthylate or polyethylene terephthalate~~.

18. (Currently Amended) The adhesive tape of claim 17, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the backing material (40) has a layer thickness of between about 6 and about 100 μm , ~~in particular between about 12 and about 50 μm~~ .

19. (Currently Amended) The adhesive tape of ~~one of claims~~claim 9 to 18, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the release liner layers, depending on the nature of the backing material (40), have a material application rate of at least about 0.8 g/m^2 (backing material = release paper), or at least 0.5 g/m^2 (backing material = polymer backing), ~~preferably 1.0 g/m^2~~ .

20. (Currently Amended) A method of producing the adhesive tape of ~~claims~~claim 1 to 19, ~~characterized in that~~comprising ~~coating~~ the pressure-sensitive hotmelt adhesive is coated onto a corona-pretreated release paper by extrusion coating, with no air bubbles.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~The use of an adhesive tape of one of claims 1 to 19 for bonding~~A method comprising bonding a printing blanket to a metallic retaining bar with ~~an adhesive tape of claim 1~~ during a printing process.

22. (Currently Amended) A method of applying and of bonding adhesive tapes of an adhesive tape of ~~one of claims~~claim 1 to 19 to a printing blanket (10) using a laminating apparatus, ~~with the following worksteps~~ comprising the following steps:

- a) introducing heat via the laminating apparatus and the release liner into the pressure-sensitive hotmelt adhesive layer,
- b) exerting pressure on the adhesive tape via the laminating apparatus, the adhesive tape being pressed with its pressure-sensitive hotmelt adhesive layer onto the fabric side of the printing blanket,

c) guiding the laminating apparatus along the edge of the printing blanket, at the same time unwinding the adhesive tape.

~~22~~²³. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~21~~²², characterized in thatwherein the laminating apparatus is a laminating roller or a laminating carriage.

~~23~~²⁴. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~one of claims~~claim 21 and 22, characterized in thatwherein heat is introduced by heating the laminating apparatus.

~~24~~²⁵. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~23~~²⁴, characterized in thatwherein the laminating apparatus is heated to at least 180°C.

~~25~~²⁶. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~one of claims~~ 21 to 24 claim 22, characterized in thatwherein the laminating speed is between about 1 and about 20 m/min.